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SUBJECT: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS - AUGUST 6 - 12, 1976

I. PSYCHOLOGICAL CLIMATE

A. WHITHER THE BASES? REFLECTING DISGRUNTLEMENT OVER THE BASES TALKS, MANILA'S MORE ANTI-U.S. COLUMNISTS USED DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBINSON'S VISIT TO LOOSE A PARTICULARLY VICIOUS TORRENT OF ABUSE ON THE U.S., THE EMBASSY AND AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN.

WHILE FRONT PAGES GAVE PROMINENT AND FAIR PLAY TO TO SECRETARY ROBINSON AND HIS ASSESSMENT OF HIS TALKS AS "FRUITFUL," THE COLUMNISTS HAD A FIELD DAY ON THE INSIDE PAGES. ERNIE GRANADA OF THE TIMES JOURNAL SET THE PACE WITH THE JEST THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WAS TOO BUSY LOOKING FOR A NEW JOB TO COME PERSONALLY. KERIMA POLOTAN'S LEFTIST ORIENT NEWS CHARACTERIZED ROBINSON'S REAFFIRMATION OF AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO THE DEFENSE OF THE PHILIPPINES AS "AN OLD PHONOGRAPH RECORD."

MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, THOUGH, A PERSONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST
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AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN APPEARS TO BE EMERGING. GRANADA, WHO

WIELDS THE HEAVIEST HATCHET, PRIOR TO 1972 WAS ONE OF THE MOST VICIOUS AMERICA-BAITERS UNTIL HE WAS JAILED FOR A YEAR (REPORTEDLY FOR FAR LEFTIST ASSOCIATIONS) AT THE INCEPTION OF MARTIAL LAW. HE REAPPEARED IN THE PRESS, VERY CAUTIOUSLY, ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO, AND ONLY THIS WEEK DOES HE SEEM TO HAVE RECOVERED HIS OLD STRIDE.

GRANADA WROTE, "THIS DIRECT CONTACT (THE ROBINSON VISIT) BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT AND THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT CAN ONLY BE FRUITFUL. FOR IF THE STATE DEPARTMENT RELIES ONLY ON THE REPORTS OF AMBASSADOR WILLIAM SULLIVAN, IT WILL GET A PRESUMPTUOUS PICTURE OF THE SITUATION IN THE PHILIPPINES. FOR INSTANCE, ON THE PHILIPPINES' DETERMINATION TO STAND BY ITS POSITION ON THE BASIES ISSUE.

"AFTER ALL HIS YEARS HERE, MR. SULLIVAN STILL HAS TO KNOW THE PHILIPPINES AND THE FILIPINOS. AND IF THE DEMOCRATS WIN THE U.S. ELECTIONS, HE'LL PROBABLY GO AWAY WITHOUT EVER ACHIEVING THAT."

AND AGAIN IN A LATER COLUMN: "MOST AMERICAN JOURNALISTS WHO WRITE ABOUT THE PHILIPPINES COME WITH ESTABLISHED SET OF PREJUDICES. FOR BEFORE THEY LEAVE THE U.S., THEY ARE BRIEFED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON THE BASIS OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY THE LOCAL U.S. EMBASSY. AND WHEN THEY ARRIVE IN MANILA, THEY ARE AGAIN BRIEFED BY THE U.S. EMBASSY.

"SO THAT THANKS TO AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN, THE JOURNALISTS ARE HOSTILE EVEN BEFORE THEY WRITE ABOUT THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES. FOR MR. SULLIVAN AND HIS COHORTS ARE THE MAIN SOURCES OF THEIR INFORMATION AND THE MOULDERS (SIC) OF THEIR OPINION.

"WITH FRIENDS LIKE MR. SULLIVAN, THE FILIPINOS DO NOT NEED ENEMEIS."

BULLETIN TODAY SATIRIST JOSE GUEVARA CONTRIBUTED HIS OWN RIB-TICKLER ABOUT AMBASSADOR'S ACTIVITIES:

"ROBINSON AND HIS COMPAINION WERE TAKEN BY AMBASSADOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WILLIAM H. SULLIVAN TO AN UNDISCLOSED PLACE, ACCORDING TO A NEWS ITEM.

"MY GUESS IS THAT THEY WENT TO THE REED BANK TO STOP THE FLOW OF OIL, OR TO METRO-MANILA STOCK EXCHANGES TO FURTHER LOWER THE PRICES OF OIL ISSUES."

EARLIER (JULY 17) KERIMA POLOTAN'S FOCUS PHILIPPINES

HAD CHARACTERIZED AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN AS "A SMOOTH, OILY DIPLOMAT WITH A FACULTY FOR DRIVING A HARD BARGAIN." THE ARTICLE CONCLUDED, "NOTHING COULD BE PLAINER THAN THIS ABOUT THE PHILIPPINES' PREFERENCE TO CLEAR OUT FROM THE BASES IN THE COUNTRY THEY HAVE BEEN OCCUPYING FOR SO LONG.

THE EXPRESS DOROY VALENCIA, TRUE TO FORM, JOINED THE DENUNCIATIONS. DOROY REITERATED HIS OFTEN-REPEATED CHARGE THAT AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN INCITED THE "STEAK COMMANDOS" (ANTI-MARCOS GROUPS IN THE U.S.) AND ADDED:

"WE HOPE MR. ROBINSON WAS ABLE TO FEEL THE REAL PULSE OF THE PHILIPPINES BY TALKING WITH THE PRESIDENT INSTEAD OF READING THE REPORTS OF THE U.S. EMBASSY."

ON THE BASES ISSUE, THE MOST SERIOUS ATTACK CAME FROM AN UNEXPECTED QUARTER THIS WEEK: S.P. LOPEZ, FORMER FOREIGN SECRETARY AND EX-PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES. AT THE HEIGHT OF THE ROBINSON VISIT, THE USUALLY ANTI-MARTIAL LAW LOPEZ IN A SPEECH TO THE OVERSEAS PRESS ASSOCIATION CALLED FOR SCRAPPING THE U.S. BASES OVER FIVE YEARS SINCE THEY "SERVE ONLY THE UNILATERAL INTERESTS OF THE UNITES STATES" IN THE REGION.

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HIS REMARKS WERE FRONTPAGED IN ALL PAPERS AND REINFORCED IN COLUMNS AND EDITORIALS.

DOROY VLAENCIA CHIMED IN WITH "FORMER SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SALVADOR P. LOPEZ FOUND THE ROBINSON VISIT A GOOD OCAASION TO SUGGEST THAT THE PHILIPPINES SHOULD SCRAP THE BASES WITHIN FIVE YEARS.... WE CAN'T CONTINUE UNDER AMERICAN MILITARY OCCUPATION. THE 75 YEARS OF IT SHOULD BE ENOUGH PUNISHMENT FOR OUR PEOPLE."

ERNIE GRANADA PICKED UP THE SAME THEME:

"ALTHOUGH HE IS ITS MOST ELOQUENT SPOKESMAN, FORMER FOREIGN SECRETARY SALVADOR P. LOPEZ IS NOT THE ONLY FILIPINO WHO SUBSCRIBES TO THE IDEA THAT IT IS FOR THE GOOD OF THE PHILIPPINES IF THE BASES WERE CLOSED IMMEDIATELY, OR AT LEAST DISMANTLED WITHIN FIVE YEARS.

"WHAT IS THE USE OF THE BASES TO US WHEN PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS JOINED OTHER REGIONAL LEADERS IN DECLARING ASEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY . . . AND THE AMERICANS SHOULD CONSIDER THAT AS THEY RENEGOTIATE A NEW LEASE."
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IN ANOTHER COLUMN GRANADA LINKED THE BASES TO THE FACT THAT THE PHILIPPINES HAS TO BE CONTENT WITH OBSERVER STATUS AT THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE.

"THIS IS ONE TIME WHEN THE U.S. BASES ARE SERIOUS LIABILITIES TO US."

NOT SURPRISINGLY, KERIMA POLOTAN'S EVENING POST ENDORSED THE LOPEZ THESIS AT LENGTH IN AN EDITORIAL.

THE BULLETIN'S GUEVARA BEGAIN THE WEEK BY REFERRING TO SCRAPPING THE BASES AS LOPEZ' IMPOSSIBLE DREAM." BUT BY THURSDAY HE HAD JOINED THE CHORUS:

"LET'S STOP THESE TALKS ABOUT EXTRATERRITORIALITY, JURISDICTION, PAYMENT EXTENSION AND SUCH OLD ISSUES. THE TIME HAS COME TO NEGOTIATE FOR ONLY ONE THING -- THE SCRAPPING OF ALL U.S. BASES HERE.

"IF THAILAND WAS ABLE TO DO IT, WHY CAN'T WE? WE HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT PX GOODS."

FRIENDLY BIGNORNIA OF THE BULLETIN TODAY IN ONE OF THE FEW BALANCED COMMENTARIES TO APPEAR CALLEF FOR MORE FIRMNESS

ON THE PART OF THE PHILIPPINE NEGOTIATING TEAM, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME POINTING TO THE CONTINUING SOVIET NAVAL THREAT AND TO CHINA'S DESIRE TO MAINTAIN A BALANCE.

B. A GENTLE "REMINDER" TO THE PRESS:

BULLETIN TODAY OWNER OF CHAIRMAN OF THE SEMI-OFFICIAL PHILIPPINE COUNCIL ON PRINT MEDIA BRIG. GEN. HANS MENZI CLOSED THE REPORTING WEEK WITH A REMINDER THAT THE COUNCIL IS WATCHING CASES OF "BACKSLIDING" AMONG NEWS-PAPERS AND "WILL NOT HESITATE TO CLOSE DOWN PAPERS THAT VIOLATE THE COUNCIL'S GUIDELINES.

MENZI CITED THE PROLIFERATION OF CRIME STORIES IN SOME NEWSPAPERS AS AN EXAMPLE AND ANNOUNCED THAT RECENTLY AN UN-NAMED MAGAZINE HAD BEEN CLOSED DOWN FOR FAILING TO HEED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE COUNCIL'S WARNINGS.

II. SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

A. VISITING LECTURER MARIE SQUERCIATI SPOKE ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE U.S. BEFORE A GROUP OF 250 LEADING FILIPINO WOMEN HEADED BY DR. LETICIA DE GUZMAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE ROLE OF FILIPINO WOMEN (NCRFW) AND PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY. LECTURE DISCUSSION WAS CO-SPONSORED BY THE NCRFW AND THE PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (PAUW). JUDGE MILAGROS GERMAN, VICE PRESIDENT OF PAUW, MINERVA LAUDICO OF CENTRO ESCOLAR UNIVERSITY, AND DEAN FELICIANA REYES, VICE PRESIDENT OF PAUW, PARTICIPATED IN THE DISCUSSIONS. A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOLLOWED, ATTENDED AMONG OTHERS BY SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE ESTAFANIA ALDABA LIM, AND DR. DE GUMAN, DISCUSSION WAS MAINLY ON CURRENT PROBLEMS INVOLVING FILIPINO WOMEN. EARLIER, MS. SQUERCIATI TAPED A HALF-HOUR TV DISCUSSION FOR THE "MS. ELLANEOS" SHOW, WHICH APPEARS ON PRIME TIME WEDNESDAY EVENING.

B. A HALF-DAY SEMINAR ON COMPUTER GRAPHICS AND SPATIAL ANALYSIS" WAS HELD UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF TJCC AND THE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION TEAM OF FIRST LADY IMELDA MARCOS. LECTURERS WERE MR. GEOFFRY DUTTON AND MRS. JAMES DOUGENIK. ABOUT 25 PEOPLE MOSTLY FROM MIT AND OTHER LEADING PRIVATE COMPUTER ORGANIZATIONS TOOK PART IN THE DISCUSSION.

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